UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/758,200	01/16/2004	Emmanuel Raguet	01807.002556.	4892

5514   7590   08/21/2008
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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2625	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
08/21/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/758,200	RAGUET ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	MARCUS T. RILEY	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>21 May 2008</u>.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-30</u> is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) <u>2,8,18-21 and 25</u> is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1,3-7, 9-17,22-24, & 26-30</u> is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>16 January 2004</u> is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a) ☒ All   b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
        1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)
1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02/26/2004</u>.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1.   This office action is responsive to applicant's remarks received on May 21, 2008. **Claims 1, 3-7, 9-17, 22-24, 26** and newly added **claims 26-30** are pending. **Claims 2, 8, 18-21 & 25** have been cancelled.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments with respect to amended **claims 1, 3-7, 9-17, 22-24, 26** and newly added **claims 26-30**, filed on May 21, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

A: Applicant's Remarks

Summary

        Claims 1, 3-7, 9-17, and 22-24, and 26-30 are pending. Claims 2, 8, 18-21, and 25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-17, and 22-24, and 26 have been amended. Claims 27- 30 have been added.

Formal Rejection

        Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, Claim 26 has been amended to change "A computer program stored on an information carrier" to --A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program--. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Substantive Rejections

Claims 1-17 and 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by

Ahne et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,068,837). Claims 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as

being obvious over Ahne et al. in view of Igarashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,934,048).

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejections, independent Claims 1,

12, 24, and 26 have been amended. Applicants submit that as amended, these claims are

allowable for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to relate to a method of managing images on an

image management device comprising at least one connector for connection to at least one

memory space containing images and selection information identifying images on the memory

space in a first category, images on the memory space not in the first category being images in a

second category.

Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that the method comprises configuring at least

one image management file containing information relating to the management of the images in

the first category and to the management of the images in the second category, and saving the

image management file in a memory space belonging to the image management device and

different from the memory space containing the images and the selection information. Claim 1

has been further amended to recite that then, following connection of the memory space

containing images and selection information to the image management device obtaining the

selection information for the images from the connected memory space, and managing the

images in the first category and the images in the second category according to the information in the at least one configured image management file.

By this arrangement, images can be automatically processed that are previously selected by a camera or other device. Thus, for example, on a camera, images can be selected to identify images in a first category, (images not having been selected forming images in a second category), and when the camera, containing images and the selection information, is connected to an image management device, the images in the first category and second category can be managed according to the information relating to the processing of the two different categories in the management file in the image management device.

In contrast, the citation to Ahne et al. is not understood to disclose or suggest the steps of 1) configuring at least one image management file containing information relating to the management of images in a first category identified by selection information on a memory space connected to a connector of an image management device and to the management of images in a second category defined as images on the memory space not in the first category, and saving the image management file in a memory space belonging to the image management device and different from the memory space containing the images and the selection information, as recited by amended Claim 1. In addition, this citation, therefore, is not understood to disclose or suggest that following connection of the memory space containing the images and the selection information to the image management device: obtaining the selection information for the images from the connected memory space, and managing the images in the first category and the images in the second category according to the information in the at least one configured image management file, as also recited by amended Claim 1.

Rather, this citation is understood to merely disclose 1) a stand-alone printer that includes software allowing viewing and editing of forms before printing, 2) an internal printer memory for storing documents, 3) a PC attached to the printer for storing documents too large to store in the printer's internal memory, and 4) the storing in the printer of a file location of a file stored in the PC in the case where the too-large document is stored in an attached PC.

The Office Action cites column 5, lines 33-55 of the patent to Ahne et al. as showing the claimed selection information and management file. But this portion of the Ahne et al. patent is understood to be silent regarding the step of configuring at least one image management file containing information relating to the management of 1) images in a first category identified in selection information as being images on a memory space connected to a connector of an image management device, and 2) images in a second category not in the first category. In addition, this passage of the Ahne et al. patent is also not understood to disclose or suggest the managing of the images in the two categories in accordance with the information in the at least one configured image management file, as also recited by amended Claim 1.

This passage is understood to discuss the user selection of a file for editing ("By selecting a file, the user is given the option of editing the fields of the document selected"). But Applicants submit that this passage is silent as to a) a second category of images not in a first category of images identified by selection information, b) a management file containing information relating to management of such second-category images, or c) the managing of such second-category images, as recited by amended Claim 1.

This passage is also understood to discuss the storage of small documents in the printer and large documents in the PC ("A menu option is added to the currently available interface

software to allow the user to select currently saved files in the printer's memory." "For

documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's memory, the user has the option of

storing only the document's PC memory location on the printer."). But the different documents

stored in the printer and in the PC cannot be the claimed first-category and second-category

images because Claim 1 recites that these images are contained on "at least one memory space",

while this passage of the Ahne et al. patent indicates that these different documents are stored in

different machines (i.e., the printer and the PC). Moreover, there does not appear to be any

disclosure in this passage that the documents stored in the printer or the documents stored in the

PC comprise a second category of images not in a first category of images identified by selection

information. In addition, this passage does not appear to disclose or suggest a management file

containing information relating to management of documents comprising such second-category

images, or the managing of such second-category images, as recited by amended Claim 1.

As can be seen by reviewing column 5, lines 31-53 which is reproduced below, this

passage is not understood to disclose or suggest a management file containing information

relating to management of a second category of images not in a first category of images

identified by selection information, or the managing of such second-category images, as recited

by amended Claim 1:

> *The LCD provided by the stand-alone printer, for example,*
> *gives the user the ability to interact and give commands to the*
> *printer. A menu option is added to the currently available*
> *interface software to allow the user to select currently saved*
> *files in the printer's memory. The files can be accessed using a*
> *file management system such as the one used on a Palm Pilot.*
> *By selecting a file, the user is given the option of editing the*
> *fields of the document selected. Once the user has edited the*

> document, he can either print the edited document or store the
> document back into memory. The documents mentioned above
> can be of various types. Some examples are address labels,
> business cards, income tax forms, or commonly printed images.
>
> For documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's
> memory, the user has the option of storing only the document's
> PC memory location on the printer. Thus, when the user
> chooses to "speed print" a file for which this option has been
> chosen, the printer "wakes up" the printer's control program
> on the PC. The control program then finds and prints the
> correct file based on the memory location that the printer gives
> it. When this option is chosen, the printer is no longer a "stand-
> alone" device as defined in the invention background section of
> this disclosure.

For these reasons, Applicants submit that the Office has not satisfied its burden of proof to establish anticipation of amended Claim 1 by the Ahne et al. patent. And because independent Claims 12, 24, and 26 have been amended in a similar manner, and because new independent Claims 28-30 recite similar features, these claims are allowable for similar reasons. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of independent Claims 1, 12, 24, and 26 and the allowance of these claims and new independent Claims 28-30.

The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given for the independent claims and because they recite features that are patentable in their own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form.

Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

A: Examiner's Response

Ahne '387 at column 5, lines 31-53 does teach, disclose or suggest the steps of 1)
configuring at least one image management file containing information relating to the
management of images in a first category identified by selection information on a memory space
connected to a connector of an image management device and to the management of images in a
second category defined as images on the memory space not in the first category, and saving the
image management file in a memory space belonging to the image management device and
different from the memory space containing the images and the selection information, as recited
by amended Claim 1.

Here Ahne '357 configures at least one image management file containing information
relating to the management of the images in the first category because the user has the ability to
interface and give commands to a printer wherein the files are accessed using the file
management system. The first category is the printer and the second category is the PC memory
location wherein the user has the option of managing or saving files. The PC memory location is
not the Printer's memory, thus it is a different memory space being managed. Therefore, Ahne
'387 at column 5, lines 31-53 does teach, disclose or suggest the Applicant's invention as recited
by amended Claim 1.

In addition, Ahne '387 at column 5, lines 33-35; column 5, lines 35-41; and column 5,
lines 44-53 does teach, disclose or suggest the connection of the memory space containing the
images and the selection information to the image management device: obtaining the selection
information for the images from the connected memory space, and managing the images in the
first category and the images in the second category according to the information in the at least
one configured image management file, as also recited by amended Claim 1.

Here, there is a menu option which allows the user to select saved filed in the Printer's memory which is the first category which includes a management device. The files can also be accessed using a file management system. The user also has the option of managing the files and the memory in the printer or the PC which is the first and second category respectively. Therefore, Ahne '387 at column 5, lines 33-35; column 5, lines 35-41; and column 5, lines 44-53 does teach, disclose or suggest the suggest the Applicant's invention as also recited by amended Claim 1.

For these reasons, Examiner submits that the Office action has satisfied its burden of proof to establish anticipation of amended Claim 1 by the Ahne et al. patent. Because independent Claims 12, 24, and 26 have been amended in a similar manner, and because new independent Claims 28-30 recite similar features, these claims are not allowable for the same or similar reasons. Therefore, independent Claims 1, 12, 24, and new independent Claims 28-30 are not in condition for allowance.

The dependent claims are not allowable for the reasons given for the independent claims. Thus, Applicant's arguments with respect to amended claims **1, 3-7, 9-17, 22-24, 26** and newly added **claims 26-30** have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Accordingly, the application is not in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

3.   **Claim 1** is objected to because of the following informalities: **Claim 1** states in part

"...information in the at least one...". This appears to be a typographical error. Suggest deleting

the word *"the".* It is assumed for continued examination purposes that **Claim 1** reads in part

"...information in at least one...".

          Appropriate correction is required.

4.   The following is a quotation of 37 CFR 1.75(a):

> The specification must conclude with a claim particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter
> which the applicant regards as his invention or discovery.

5.   **Claim 27** is are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(a), as failing to particularly point out and

distinctly claim the subject matter which application regards as his invention or discovery. **Claim**

27 states in part *"...plurality of processing apparatus and/or memory cards...".* Suggest

deleting the word *"and".* It is assumed for continued examination purposes that **Claim 27** reads

in part *"...plurality of processing apparatus or memory cards...".*

          Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

(The previous claim rejection is withdrawn in light of the applicant's amendments.)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this
> or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on
> sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed
> in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for
> patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an
> international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this
> subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United
> States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7.   **Claims 1, 3-7, 9-17, 22-24, 26 and claims 26-30** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as

being anticipated by Ahne et al. (US 7,068,837 B2 hereinafter, Ahne '387).

Regarding claim 1; Ahne '387 discloses a method of managing images on an image

management device comprising at least one connector for connection to at least one memory

space containing images and selection information identifying images on the memory space in a

first category, images on the memory space not in the first category being images in a second

category, the method comprising a prior step of: configuring at least one image management file

containing information relating to the management of the images in the first category and to the

management of the images in the second category, and saving the image management file in a

memory space belonging to the image management device and different from the memory space

containing the images and the selection information (*"The LCD provided by the stand-alone*

printer, for example, gives the user the ability to interact and give commands to the printer. A menu option is added to the currently available interface software to allow the user to select currently saved files in the printer's memory. The files can be accessed using a file management system such as the one used on a Palm Pilot. By selecting a file, the user is given the option of editing the fields of the document selected. Once the user has edited the document, he can either print the edited document or store the document back into memory. The documents mentioned above can be of various types. Some examples are address labels, business cards, income tax forms, or commonly printed images. For documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's memory, the user has the option of storing only the document's PC memory location on the printer. Thus, when the user chooses to 'speed print' a file for which this option has been chosen, the printer 'wakes up' the printer's control program on the PC. The control program then finds and prints the correct file based on the memory location that the printer gives it. When this option is chosen, the printer is no longer a 'stand-alone' device as defined in the invention background section of this disclosure.” column 5, lines 31-53); then, following connection of the memory space containing the images and the selection information to the image management device: obtaining the selection information for the images from the connected memory space (*“A menu option is added to the currently available interface software to allow the user to select currently saved files in the printer's memory.”* column 5, lines 33-35); managing the images in the first category and the images in the second category according to the information in at least one configured image management file (*“The files can be accessed using a file management system such as the one used on a Palm Pilot. By selecting a file, the user is given the option of editing the fields of the document selected. Once the user has edited the document, he can either*

print the edited document or store the document back into memory." column 5, lines 35-41); See

also (*"For documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's memory, the user has the*

option of storing only the document's PC memory location on the printer. Thus, when the user

chooses to 'speed print' a file for which this option has been chosen, the printer 'wakes up' the

printer's control program on the PC. The control program then finds and prints the correct file

based on the memory location that the printer gives it. When this option is chosen, the printer is

no longer a 'stand-alone' device as defined in the invention background section of this

disclosure." column 5, lines 44-53).

Regarding claim 3; Ahne '387 discloses where the connecting to a memory space by

connecting an image processing apparatus (*"The LCD provided by the stand-alone printer, for*

example, gives the user the ability to interact and give commands to the printer. A menu option is

added to the currently available interface software to allow the user to select currently saved

files in the printer's memory." column 5, lines 31-35).

Regarding claim 4; Ahne '387 discloses a management method further comprising; at

the image processing apparatus, making make a selection of images and supplying image

selection information (*"The LCD provided by the stand-alone printer, for example, gives the*

user the ability to interact and give commands to the printer. A menu option is added to the

currently available interface software to allow the user to select currently saved files in the

printer's memory." column 5, lines 31-35).

Regarding claim 5; Ahne '387 discloses where the step of configuring at least one image

management file is performed on a device comprising a user interface, remote from the device

connected to the memory space (*"For documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's memory, the user has the option of storing only the document's PC memory location on the printer. Thus, when the user chooses to 'speed print' a file for which this option has been chosen, the printer 'wakes up' the printer's control program on the PC. The control program then finds and prints the correct file based on the memory location that the printer gives it. When this option is chosen, the printer is no longer a 'stand-alone' device as defined in the invention background section of this disclosure."* column 5, lines 44-53).

Regarding claim 6; Ahne '387 discloses recognizing the apparatus connected or the memory space connected to the image management device before obtaining the selection information (*"For documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's memory, the user has the option of storing only the document's PC memory location on the printer. Thus, when the user chooses to 'speed print' a file for which this option has been chosen, the printer 'wakes up' the printer's control program on the PC. The control program then finds and prints the correct file based on the memory location that the printer gives it. When this option is chosen, the printer is no longer a 'stand-alone' device as defined in the invention background section of this disclosure."* column 5, lines 44-53).

Regarding claim 7; Ahne '387 discloses selecting at least one configured management file corresponding to the connected apparatus or to the connected memory space (*"The LCD provided by the stand-alone printer, for example, gives the user the ability to interact and give commands to the printer. A menu option is added to the currently available interface software to allow the user to select currently saved files in the printer's memory. The files can be accessed*

using a file management system such as the one used on a Palm Pilot. By selecting a file, the user is given the option of editing the fields of the document selected." column 5, lines 31-38).

Regarding claim 9; Ahne '387 discloses where the image management comprises applying a processing function to the images (*"In this event printing is delayed while data processor 17 prepares the employee form in a bit map as required for printing."* column 8, lines 43-45).

Regarding claim 10; Ahne '387 discloses wherein the step of applying the processing function includes the step of using a set of processing paramaters associated with the function (*"Printer 1 under control of data processor 17 responds to the following commands to enter forms into non-volatile memory 21: 1) Switch 29 is turned on and printer 1 is brought to the normal printing status. 2) Conventional driver software suitable to printer 1 basic operation is employed at a host computer applying the signals to cable 3. 3) A unique command for storing files is sent on cable 3. 4) A unique command for opening and naming a file containing a form is sent, the name being that which will appear on display 27. 5) With the form prepared by an application program, the "print to file" entry is made to the application program. The user then instructs the application to print the document in the normal manner. The print to file designation causes the application to create the form on the hard disk on the host computer. Once this operation is complete, the user exits the application and sends the file to the printer. 6) A unique command is sent to close the file. 7) A unique command is sent to designate storage of the form in non-volatile memory 21 as a form. Step 4 has designed the data so stored as a form with the name assigned."* column 9, lines 27-52).

Regarding claim 11; Ahne '387 discloses wherein applying a processing function comprises applying processing functions in a list consisting of image compression, anti red-eye processing, transfer via a messaging service, transfer over a communication network, printing, transcoding or a combination of the above functions (*"Printer 1 under control of data processor 17 responds to the following commands to enter forms into non-volatile memory 21: 1) Switch 29 is turned on and printer 1 is brought to the normal printing status. 2) Conventional driver software suitable to printer 1 basic operation is employed at a host computer applying the signals to cable 3. 3) A unique command for storing files is sent on cable 3. 4) A unique command for opening and naming a file containing a form is sent, the name being that which will appear on display 27. 5) With the form prepared by an application program, the "print to file" entry is made to the application program. The user then instructs the application to print the document in the normal manner. The print to file designation causes the application to create the form on the hard disk on the host computer. Once this operation is complete, the user exits the application and sends the file to the printer. 6) A unique command is sent to close the file. 7) A unique command is sent to designate storage of the form in non-volatile memory 21 as a form. Step 4 has designed the data so stored as a form with the name assigned."* column 9, lines 27-52).

Regarding claim 12; Ahne '387 discloses at least one connector for connecting at least one memory space to the image management device, which memory space contains images and selection information identifying images on the memory space in a first category, images on the memory space not in the first category being images in a second category (*"The LCD provided by the stand-alone printer, for example, gives the user the ability to interact and give commands*

to the printer. A menu option is added to the currently available interface software to allow the user to select currently saved files in the printer's memory. The files can be accessed using a file management system such as the one used on a Palm Pilot. By selecting a file, the user is given the option of editing the fields of the document selected. Once the user has edited the document, he can either print the edited document or store the document back into memory. The documents mentioned above can be of various types. Some examples are address labels, business cards, income tax forms, or commonly printed images. For documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's memory, the user has the option of storing only the document's PC memory location on the printer. Thus, when the user chooses to 'speed print' a file for which this option has been chosen, the printer 'wakes up' the printer's control program on the PC. The control program then finds and prints the correct file based on the memory location that the printer gives it. When this option is chosen, the printer is no longer a 'stand-alone' device as defined in the invention background section of this disclosure." column 5, lines 31-53); See also ("*For documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's memory, the user has the option of storing only the document's PC memory location on the printer. Thus, when the user chooses to 'speed print' a file for which this option has been chosen, the printer 'wakes up' the printer's control program on the PC. The control program then finds and prints the correct file based on the memory location that the printer gives it. When this option is chosen, the printer is no longer a 'stand-alone' device as defined in the invention background section of this disclosure.*" column 5, lines 44-53); at least one memory space different from the memory space containing images and the selection information, and including at least one configurable image management file containing information on the management of the images in the first category and on the

management of the images in the second category (*"The LCD provided by the stand-alone printer, for example, gives the user the ability to interact and give commands to the printer. A menu option is added to the currently available interface software to allow the user to select currently saved files in the printer's memory. The files can be accessed using a file management system such as the one used on a Palm Pilot. By selecting a file, the user is given the option of editing the fields of the document selected. Once the user has edited the document, he can either print the edited document or store the document back into memory. The documents mentioned above can be of various types. Some examples are address labels, business cards, income tax forms, or commonly printed images. For documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's memory, the user has the option of storing only the document's PC memory location on the printer. Thus, when the user chooses to 'speed print' a file for which this option has been chosen, the printer 'wakes up' the printer's control program on the PC. The control program then finds and prints the correct file based on the memory location that the printer gives it. When this option is chosen, the printer is no longer a 'stand-alone' device as defined in the invention background section of this disclosure."* column 5, lines 31-53); See also (*"For documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's memory, the user has the option of storing only the document's PC memory location on the printer. Thus, when the user chooses to 'speed print' a file for which this option has been chosen, the printer 'wakes up' the printer's control program on the PC. The control program then finds and prints the correct file based on the memory location that the printer gives it. When this option is chosen, the printer is no longer a 'stand-alone' device as defined in the invention background section of this disclosure."* column 5, lines 44-53); a first manager for obtaining the selection information for the images from the connected

memory space (*"A menu option is added to the currently available interface software to allow the user to select currently saved files in the printer's memory."* column 5, lines 33-35); a second manager for managing the images in the first category and the images in the second category according to the information in said at least one configured image management file (*"The files can be accessed using a file management system such as the one used on a Palm Pilot. By selecting a file, the user is given the option of editing the fields of the document selected. Once the user has edited the document, he can either print the edited document or store the document back into memory."* column 5, lines 35-41);

Regarding claim 13; Ahne '387 discloses where said at least one memory space is included in or is insertable in an image processing apparatus (*"A menu option is added to the currently available interface software to allow the user to select currently saved files in the printer's memory."* column 5, lines 33-35).

Regarding claim 14; Ahne '387 discloses an image processing apparatus that includes the memory space for connection to the connector (*"The LCD provided by the stand-alone printer, for example, gives the user the ability to interact and give commands to the printer. A menu option is added to the currently available interface software to allow the user to select currently saved files in the printer's memory."* column 5, lines 31-35).

Regarding claim 15; Ahne '387 discloses where the image processing apparatus operable to make a selection of images and to supply the selection information (*"The LCD provided by the stand-alone printer, for example, gives the user the ability to interact and give*

commands to the printer. A menu option is added to the currently available interface software to

allow the user to select currently saved files in the printer's memory." column 5, lines 31-35).

Regarding claim 16; Ahne '387 discloses an image management device configured to

recognize an image processing apparatus or a memory space which is connected to it (*"For*

documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's memory, the user has the option of

storing only the document's PC memory location on the printer. Thus, when the user chooses to

'speed print' a file for which this option has been chosen, the printer 'wakes up' the printer's

control program on the PC. The control program then finds and prints the correct file based on

the memory location that the printer gives it. When this option is chosen, the printer is no longer

a 'stand-alone' device as defined in the invention background section of this disclosure." column

5, lines 44-53).

Regarding claim 17; Ahne '387 discloses wherein the second manager is operable to

apply processing functions to the images (*"In this event printing is delayed while data processor*

17 prepares the employee form in a bit map as required for printing." column 8, lines 43-45).

Regarding claim 22; Ahne '387 discloses an image transcoder (*"Data processor 17 in*

printer 1 controls operation of printer 1. Typically, data processor 17 is a microprocessor, often

with one or more ASIC combinational logic circuits to speed certain operations. As part of this

operation, information received on cable 3 in a high level language is interpreted by data

processor 17 to create a bit map of the page to be printed. For example, printer languages

typically describe characters of the alphabet in an ASCII code. The form of the character is

stored in fonts and these fonts are used to define the final bit map." column 6, lines 60-67 thru

column 7, lines 1-2).

Regarding claim 23; Ahne '387 discloses where an image management device

integrated in a printer (*"Printer 1 under control of data processor 17 responds to the following*

commands to enter forms into non-volatile memory 21: 1) Switch 29 is turned on and printer 1 is

brought to the normal printing status. 2) Conventional driver software suitable to printer 1 basic

operation is employed at a host computer applying the signals to cable 3. 3) A unique command

for storing files is sent on cable 3. 4) A unique command for opening and naming a file

containing a form is sent, the name being that which will appear on display 27. 5) With the form

prepared by an application program, the "print to file" entry is made to the application

program. The user then instructs the application to print the document in the normal manner.

The print to file designation causes the application to create the form on the hard disk on the

host computer. Once this operation is complete, the user exits the application and sends the file

to the printer. 6) A unique command is sent to close the file. 7) A unique command is sent to

designate storage of the form in non-volatile memory 21 as a form. Step 4 has designed the data

so stored as a form with the name assigned." column 9, lines 27-52).

Regarding claim 24; Ahne '387 discloses a printer comprising: at least one connector

for connection to at least one memory space containing images and selection information

identifying images on the memory space in a first category, non-selected images on the memory

space being images in a second category (*"The LCD provided by the stand-alone printer, for*

example, gives the user the ability to interact and give commands to the printer. A menu option is

added to the currently available interface software to allow the user to select currently saved

files in the printer's memory. The files can be accessed using a file management system such as the one used on a Palm Pilot. By selecting a file, the user is given the option of editing the fields of the document selected. Once the user has edited the document, he can either print the edited document or store the document back into memory. The documents mentioned above can be of various types. Some examples are address labels, business cards, income tax forms, or commonly printed images. For documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's memory, the user has the option of storing only the document's PC memory location on the printer. Thus, when the user chooses to 'speed print' a file for which this option has been chosen, the printer 'wakes up' the printer's control program on the PC. The control program then finds and prints the correct file based on the memory location that the printer gives it. When this option is chosen, the printer is no longer a 'stand-alone' device as defined in the invention background section of this disclosure." column 5, lines 31-53); See also (*"For documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's memory, the user has the option of storing only the document's PC memory location on the printer. Thus, when the user chooses to 'speed print' a file for which this option has been chosen, the printer 'wakes up' the printer's control program on the PC. The control program then finds and prints the correct file based on the memory location that the printer gives it. When this option is chosen, the printer is no longer a 'stand-alone' device as defined in the invention background section of this disclosure."* column 5, lines 44-53); at least one memory space different from the memory space containing the images and the selection information, and including at least one configurable image management file containing information on the management of the images in the first category and on the management of the images in the second category (*"The LCD provided by the stand-alone*

printer, for example, gives the user the ability to interact and give commands to the printer. A menu option is added to the currently available interface software to allow the user to select currently saved files in the printer's memory. The files can be accessed using a file management system such as the one used on a Palm Pilot. By selecting a file, the user is given the option of editing the fields of the document selected. Once the user has edited the document, he can either print the edited document or store the document back into memory. The documents mentioned above can be of various types. Some examples are address labels, business cards, income tax forms, or commonly printed images. For documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's memory, the user has the option of storing only the document's PC memory location on the printer. Thus, when the user chooses to 'speed print' a file for which this option has been chosen, the printer 'wakes up' the printer's control program on the PC. The control program then finds and prints the correct file based on the memory location that the printer gives it. When this option is chosen, the printer is no longer a 'stand-alone' device as defined in the invention background section of this disclosure. " column 5, lines 31-53); See also ("*For documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's memory, the user has the option of storing only the document's PC memory location on the printer. Thus, when the user chooses to 'speed print' a file for which this option has been chosen, the printer 'wakes up' the printer's control program on the PC. The control program then finds and prints the correct file based on the memory location that the printer gives it. When this option is chosen, the printer is no longer a 'stand-alone' device as defined in the invention background section of this disclosure.*" column 5, lines 44-53); a first manager for obtaining the selection information for the images in the connected memory space ("*A menu option is added to the currently available interface software to allow*

the user to select currently saved files in the printer's memory." column 5, lines 33-35); a second

manager for managing the images in the first category and the images in the second category

according to the information in said at least one configured image management file (*"The files*

can be accessed using a file management system such as the one used on a Palm Pilot. By

selecting a file, the user is given the option of editing the fields of the document selected. Once

the user has edited the document, he can either print the edited document or store the document

back into memory." column 5, lines 35-41).

Regarding claim 26; Ahne '387 discloses a computer-readable medium encoded with a

computer program stored on an information carrier, said program comprising instructions for

implementing an image management method on an image management device comprising at

least one connector for connection to at least one memory space containing images and selection

information identifying images on the memory space in a first category, images on the memory

space not in the first category being images in a second category, the method comprising:

configuring at least one image management file containing information relating to the

management of the images in the first category and to management of the images in the second

category, and saving the image management file in a memory space belonging to the image

management device and different from the memory space containing the images and the

selection information (*"The LCD provided by the stand-alone printer, for example, gives the*

user the ability to interact and give commands to the printer. A menu option is added to the

currently available interface software to allow the user to select currently saved files in the

printer's memory. The files can be accessed using a file management system such as the one

used on a Palm Pilot. By selecting a file, the user is given the option of editing the fields of the

document selected. Once the user has edited the document, he can either print the edited

document or store the document back into memory. The documents mentioned above can be of

various types. Some examples are address labels, business cards, income tax forms, or

commonly printed images. For documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's

memory, the user has the option of storing only the document's PC memory location on the

printer. Thus, when the user chooses to 'speed print' a file for which this option has been chosen,

the printer 'wakes up' the printer's control program on the PC. The control program then finds

and prints the correct file based on the memory location that the printer gives it. When this

option is chosen, the printer is no longer a 'stand-alone' device as defined in the invention

background section of this disclosure." column 5, lines 31-53); then, following connection of the

memory space containing the images and the selection information to the image management

device obtaining selection information for the images from the connected memory space (*"A*

menu option is added to the currently available interface software to allow the user to select

currently saved files in the printer's memory." column 5, lines 33-35); and managing the images

in the first category and the images in the second category according to the information in the at

least one configured image management file (*"The files can be accessed using a file*

management system such as the one used on a Palm Pilot. By selecting a file, the user is given

the option of editing the fields of the document selected. Once the user has edited the document,

he can either print the edited document or store the document back into memory." column 5,

lines 35-41); See also (*"For documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's memory,*

the user has the option of storing only the document's PC memory location on the printer. Thus,

when the user chooses to 'speed print' a file for which this option has been chosen, the printer

'wakes up' the printer's control program on the PC. The control program then finds and prints the correct file based on the memory location that the printer gives it. When this option is chosen, the printer is no longer a 'stand-alone' device as defined in the invention background section of this disclosure. " column 5, lines 44-53).

Regarding claim 27; Ahne '387 discloses an image management device wherein a plurality of processing apparatus or memory cards are registered with the image management device (*"...when a printer 1 is in its mode for forms on demand, the operator's host computer may operate independently of printer 1, for example the host may process data associated with an application which is different from the application associated with the custom forms of the operators' business.* " column 6, lines 31-36); wherein the image management device comprises at least one management file corresponding to each processing apparatus or memory card registered with the device (*"FIG. 1 illustrates a printer 1 in accordance with this invention having the ability to edit and print forms on demand without significant delay at operator input without requiring involvement of a host computer. Of course, few businesses currently operate in an environment where a printer is not connected to some host computer. If anything, the opposite is true--multiple host computers are connected to one printer. However, when a printer 1 is in its mode for forms on demand, the operator's host computer may operate independently of printer 1, for example the host may process data associated with an application which is different from the application associated with the custom forms of the operators' business.* " column 6, lines 24-36).

Regarding claim 28; Ahne '387 discloses A method of managing images on an image management device comprising at least one means for connection to at least one memory space containing images and selection information identifying images on the memory space in a first

category, images on the memory space not in the first category being images in a second

category, the method comprising: configuring at least one image management file containing

information relating to the management of the images in the first category and to management of

the images in the second category, and saving the image management file in a memory space

belonging to the image management device and different from the memory space containing the

images and the selection information (*"The LCD provided by the stand-alone printer, for*

example, gives the user the ability to interact and give commands to the printer. A menu option is

added to the currently available interface software to allow the user to select currently saved

files in the printer's memory. The files can be accessed using a file management system such as

the one used on a Palm Pilot. By selecting a file, the user is given the option of editing the fields

of the document selected. Once the user has edited the document, he can either print the edited

document or store the document back into memory. The documents mentioned above can be of

various types. Some examples are address labels, business cards, income tax forms, or

commonly printed images. For documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's

memory, the user has the option of storing only the document's PC memory location on the

printer. Thus, when the user chooses to 'speed print' a file for which this option has been chosen,

the printer 'wakes up' the printer's control program on the PC. The control program then finds

and prints the correct file based on the memory location that the printer gives it. When this

option is chosen, the printer is no longer a 'stand-alone' device as defined in the invention

background section of this disclosure." column 5, lines 31-53); then, following connection of the

memory space containing the images and the selection information to the image management

device: obtaining the selection information for the images from the connected memory space (*"A*

menu option is added to the currently available interface software to allow the user to select currently saved files in the printer's memory." column 5, lines 33-35); managing the images in the first category and images in the second category according to the information in the at least one configured image management file (*"The files can be accessed using a file management system such as the one used on a Palm Pilot. By selecting a file, the user is given the option of editing the fields of the document selected. Once the user has edited the document, he can either print the edited document or store the document back into memory."* column 5, lines 35-41); See also (*"For documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's memory, the user has the option of storing only the document's PC memory location on the printer. Thus, when the user chooses to 'speed print' a file for which this option has been chosen, the printer 'wakes up' the printer's control program on the PC. The control program then finds and prints the correct file based on the memory location that the printer gives it. When this option is chosen, the printer is no longer a 'stand-alone' device as defined in the invention background section of this disclosure."* column 5, lines 44-53).

Regarding claim 29; Ahne '387 discloses an image management device comprising: at least one means for connecting at least one memory space to the image management device, which memory space contains images and selection information identifying images on the memory space in a first category, images on the memory space not in the first category being images in a second category (*"The LCD provided by the stand-alone printer, for example, gives the user the ability to interact and give commands to the printer. A menu option is added to the currently available interface software to allow the user to select currently saved files in the printer's memory. The files can be accessed using a file management system such as the one*

used on a Palm Pilot. By selecting a file, the user is given the option of editing the fields of the document selected. Once the user has edited the document, he can either print the edited document or store the document back into memory. The documents mentioned above can be of various types. Some examples are address labels, business cards, income tax forms, or commonly printed images. For documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's memory, the user has the option of storing only the document's PC memory location on the printer. Thus, when the user chooses to 'speed print' a file for which this option has been chosen, the printer 'wakes up' the printer's control program on the PC. The control program then finds and prints the correct file based on the memory location that the printer gives it. When this option is chosen, the printer is no longer a 'stand-alone' device as defined in the invention background section of this disclosure." column 5, lines 31-53); See also (*"For documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's memory, the user has the option of storing only the document's PC memory location on the printer. Thus, when the user chooses to 'speed print' a file for which this option has been chosen, the printer 'wakes up' the printer's control program on the PC. The control program then finds and prints the correct file based on the memory location that the printer gives it. When this option is chosen, the printer is no longer a 'stand-alone' device as defined in the invention background section of this disclosure."* column 5, lines 44-53); at least one memory space, different from the memory space containing the images and the selection information, and including at least one configurable image management file containing information on the management of the images in the first category and on the management of the images in the second category (*"The LCD provided by the stand-alone printer, for example, gives the user the ability to interact and give commands to the printer. A*

menu option is added to the currently available interface software to allow the user to select currently saved files in the printer's memory. The files can be accessed using a file management system such as the one used on a Palm Pilot. By selecting a file, the user is given the option of editing the fields of the document selected. Once the user has edited the document, he can either print the edited document or store the document back into memory. The documents mentioned above can be of various types. Some examples are address labels, business cards, income tax forms, or commonly printed images. For documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's memory, the user has the option of storing only the document's PC memory location on the printer. Thus, when the user chooses to 'speed print' a file for which this option has been chosen, the printer 'wakes up' the printer's control program on the PC. The control program then finds and prints the correct file based on the memory location that the printer gives it. When this option is chosen, the printer is no longer a 'stand-alone' device as defined in the invention background section of this disclosure." column 5, lines 31-53); See also ("*For documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's memory, the user has the option of storing only the document's PC memory location on the printer. Thus, when the user chooses to 'speed print' a file for which this option has been chosen, the printer 'wakes up' the printer's control program on the PC. The control program then finds and prints the correct file based on the memory location that the printer gives it. When this option is chosen, the printer is no longer a 'stand-alone' device as defined in the invention background section of this disclosure.*" column 5, lines 44-53); means for obtaining the selection information for the images from the connected memory space ("*A menu option is added to the currently available interface software to allow the user to select currently saved files in the printer's memory.*" column 5, lines 33-35); and means for

managing the images in the first category and the images in the second category according to the

information in said at least one configured image management file (*"The files can be accessed*

using a file management system such as the one used on a Palm Pilot. By selecting a file, the

user is given the option of editing the fields of the document selected. Once the user has edited

the document, he can either print the edited document or store the document back into memory."

column 5, lines 35-41).

Regarding claim 30; Ahne '387 discloses a printer comprising: at least one means for

connection to at least one memory space containing images and selection information identifying

images on the memory space in a first category, non-selected images on the memory space being

images in a second category(*"The LCD provided by the stand-alone printer, for example, gives*

the user the ability to interact and give commands to the printer. A menu option is added to the

currently available interface software to allow the user to select currently saved files in the

printer's memory. The files can be accessed using a file management system such as the one

used on a Palm Pilot. By selecting a file, the user is given the option of editing the fields of the

document selected. Once the user has edited the document, he can either print the edited

document or store the document back into memory. The documents mentioned above can be of

various types. Some examples are address labels, business cards, income tax forms, or

commonly printed images. For documents that are too large to be stored on the printer's

memory, the user has the option of storing only the document's PC memory location on the

printer. Thus, when the user chooses to 'speed print' a file for which this option has been chosen,

the printer 'wakes up' the printer's control program on the PC. The control program then finds

and prints the correct file based on the memory location that the printer gives it. When this

option is chosen, the printer is no longer a 'stand-alone' device as defined in the invention

background section of this disclosure." column 5, lines 31-53); See also ("*For documents that*

are too large to be stored on the printer's memory, the user has the option of storing only the

document's PC memory location on the printer. Thus, when the user chooses to 'speed print' a

file for which this option has been chosen, the printer 'wakes up' the printer's control program

on the PC. The control program then finds and prints the correct file based on the memory

location that the printer gives it. When this option is chosen, the printer is no longer a 'stand-

alone' device as defined in the invention background section of this disclosure." column 5, lines

44-53); at least one memory space, different from the memory space containing the images and

the selection information, and including at least one configurable image management file

containing information on the management of the images in the first category and on the

management of the images in the second category ("*The LCD provided by the stand-alone*

printer, for example, gives the user the ability to interact and give commands to the printer. A

menu option is added to the currently available interface software to allow the user to select

currently saved files in the printer's memory. The files can be accessed using a file management

system such as the one used on a Palm Pilot. By selecting a file, the user is given the option of

editing the fields of the document selected. Once the user has edited the document, he can either

print the edited document or store the document back into memory. The documents mentioned

above can be of various types. Some examples are address labels, business cards, income tax

forms, or commonly printed images. For documents that are too large to be stored on the

printer's memory, the user has the option of storing only the document's PC memory location on

the printer. Thus, when the user chooses to 'speed print' a file for which this option has been

chosen, the printer 'wakes up' the printer's control program on the PC. The control program

then finds and prints the correct file based on the memory location that the printer gives it. When

this option is chosen, the printer is no longer a 'stand-alone' device as defined in the invention

background section of this disclosure." column 5, lines 31-53); See also *("For documents that*

are too large to be stored on the printer's memory, the user has the option of storing only the

document's PC memory location on the printer. Thus, when the user chooses to 'speed print' a

file for which this option has been chosen, the printer 'wakes up' the printer's control program

on the PC. The control program then finds and prints the correct file based on the memory

location that the printer gives it. When this option is chosen, the printer is no longer a 'stand-

alone' device as defined in the invention background section of this disclosure." column 5, lines

44-53); means for obtaining the selection information for the images from the connected memory

space *("A menu option is added to the currently available interface software to allow the user to*

select currently saved files in the printer's memory." column 5, lines 33-35); and means for

managing the images in the first category and the images in the second category according to the

information in said at least one configured image management file *("The files can be accessed*

using a file management system such as the one used on a Palm Pilot. By selecting a file, the

user is given the option of editing the fields of the document selected. Once the user has edited

the document, he can either print the edited document or store the document back into memory."

column 5, lines 35-41).

Conclusion

8.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this

Office action.   Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**.   See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action.   In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action.   In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this

final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to MARCUS T. RILEY whose telephone number is (571)270-1581.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:30-5:00, est.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Twyler L. Haskins can be reached on 571-272-7406. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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